



Structural Engineers Association of
Southern California
5360 Workman Mill Rd.
Whittier, CA 90601
Tel: (562) 908-6131
Fax: (562) 692-3425
E-mail: seaosc@seaint.org
Website: www.seaint.org

SEAOSC

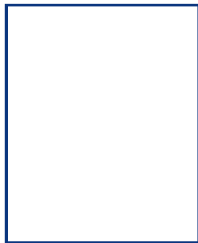
NEWS

Founded in 1928 Vol. 10 October, 2000

President's Message

As was mentioned in last month's letter, there is a lot brewing in the registration and practice kettle. In June of this year, the ASCE hosted a summit meeting attended by 50 leaders in the field of structural engineering. The summit's goal was to address issues associated with academic credentials, testing, licensing and certificates of authorization for engineering firms.

SEAOC was represented at this summit by Williston (Bill) Warren and John Shipp.



Testing and registration was a hot topic and three scenarios were addressed; the first scenario was the two-tier system, the second was a single license, and the third was professional certification similar to that used by physicians and lawyers. John Shipp, Bill

Warren and Teresa Castle presented a paper, "Two Tier Practice Act for Structural Engineer's License" on behalf of SEAOC.

Education standards for structural engineers are being influenced by the increasing complexity of the field and growing performance expectations by owners and public. While the requirement for a master's degree did not have a consensus, there was general agreement that about 160 credit hours are required in a civil and structural engineering curriculum to provide an adequate background for practicing in the profession.

While the summit was only intended to initiate a dialogue within the profession, there did seem to be some broad areas of agreement.

- Licensing and testing should be more uniform throughout the country.

(Continued on Page 2)

Identical Repeat of SEAOC Seismic Design Manual Vol. 2 Seminar

Oct. 21: 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at Wyndham Garden Hotel, 5757 Telegraph Rd., Commerce, inside the Citadel. Repeat of July 22 seminar. Register now – seating limited to first 200! (See grey insert for registration form and details.)

L.A. Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 4

Program: To be determined

Speaker: To be determined

Location: Luminarias Restaurant,
Monterey Park

Menu: Pepper steak

Time: Social hour: 5:30 p.m.

Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Program: 8 p.m.

Cost: \$24

(Full-time, undergraduate students: \$10)

(See blue insert for reservation form and details.)

Tri-Counties Dinner Mtg.

Wednesday, Oct. 11

Program: Background & History of the Seismic Provisions in the 1997 UBC & 2000 IBC

Speaker: Bob Bachman

Location: Four Points Sheraton,
Ventura Harbortown

Time: Social hour: 5:30 p.m.

Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Program: 8 p.m.

Cost: \$24 (Full-time undergraduate students \$10)

(See green insert for reservation form and details.)

October Calendar

4	2 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Board Meeting L.A. Dinner Mtg.	Luminarias Restaurant, Monterey Park Luminarias Restaurant, Monterey Park
7	9 a.m.	SEAOC Board Meeting	Sacramento
10	2 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	QAC Meeting Tri-Counties Dinner Mtg.	SEAOSC Offices, Whittier Fourpoints Sheraton, Ventura
21	8 a.m.	Seismic Design Manual Vol. 2 Seminar	Wyndham Hotel, Commerce

SEAOC BYLAWS BALLOT DUE



The old and revised SEAOC Articles of Incorporation and SEAOC Bylaws are now posted on the seaoc.org website along with electronic balloting capability. SEAOSC membership categories of Member SE

and Member are entitled to vote and are encouraged to visit the seaoc.org website to vote electronically before the voting deadline of October 1. Further details are available in the latest issue of the SEAOC publication, *Plan Review*.

New Members

Ghanbari, Shah, *Member*, Group Delta Consulting Inc., Aliso Viejo
Welton, Jeremy, *Member*, EQE, Irvine

President's Message (Continued From Page 1)

- University curricula need improvement, and continuing education should be required for licensed engineers.
- Licensing examinations should place more emphasis on evaluating experience and judgment.
- The professional recognition of structural engineers needs to be enhanced and appropriate compensation needs to be received.

As the industry moves toward uniformity throughout the nation, SEAOC and your local section will endeavor to provide positive professional guidance; at the state level, through the Professional Licensing Committee, and at the local level, using our influence to provide direction and input to the state.

James Hill, President

John A. Martin & Associates Wins SEAOC Award

Congratulations to *John A. Martin & Associates* for winning a SEAOC Excellence in Structural Engineering Award at the August SEAOC Convention in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. **Kai-Chen Tu** was on hand to accept the award on behalf of the team.



Two Tier Practice Act for Structural Engineer's License

BY JOHN G. SHIPP, S.E. FASCE, WILLISTON L. WARREN, IV, S.E., AND TERESA L. CASTLE, S.E.

The practice of Structural Engineering affects the public health, safety and welfare and is subject to regulations in the public interest. It is the goal of state licensing laws that only qualified persons be authorized to practice structural engineering. The reality in the practice of structural engineering is that there exist two distinct levels of practice and practitioners; an entry level (i.e. SE-I) for regular low rise structures that can be analyzed by static lateral force procedures and a full competency level (i.e. SE-II) for all structures and analysis procedures including response spectrum and time history dynamic analysis. This discussion is intended to present a proposed licensing law for structural engineers that address the requirements, type of examination and restrictions that apply to these two levels of practice. Recall that a practice act defines the specific type of work that a licensed engineer in that discipline can legally perform, such as the structural design of a building, bridge or other structure, along with the corresponding responsibilities and liabilities. Because of the extent and breadth of knowledge and experience required to practice structural engineering at its highest level in the 21st century it is appropriate and necessary to phase into a full competence license with an entry level of authority.

REQUIREMENTS

The requirements in any practice act license are that the applicant demonstrate, through an examination that is representative of the type of work and method for doing the work

for which they are to be licensed, the acceptable level of ability for that license. Also, prior to sitting for the written examination for a structural engineering license, the applicant must first satisfy minimum education and work experience requirements. This should include graduation from an accredited college or university with a major or specialty in structural engineering, completion of a specified list of courses and minimum number of upper division or graduate college units. Requirements should also include specific work experience under the direct supervision of a licensed structural engineer.

SOME STATES REQUIRE...

Some states require that the applicant for a structural engineering license practice have a Civil or Professional Engineering practice act license prior to sitting for the SE examination; Table 1 summarizes specific practice and title acts licensed in each state, and Figure one provides a definition of the practicing structural engineering per the State of Illinois. This requirement has two conflicts that are a result of the increasing complexity of each of the disciplines. First it ties the structural engineering license to the civil engineering license, which was a natural evolution for the licensing, due to structural engineering starting as a specialty within civil engineering. Our current technological state of practice for both the design of structures and more traditional civil projects has specialized the work to the point where the common areas are not as common anymore. Today the actual practice of civil engineering

includes hydrology, landfill design, open channel flow, water distribution systems, sanitary collection systems, drainage and grading. Students of today specialize rather than taking a general civil engineering program. Each of these is a separate discipline and requires a specific discipline and requires a specific focus and course of study with different design requirements. These include different codes, guidelines, regulations, and standards that govern the work and standards of practice that govern the responsibilities. Engineers who practice civil engineering, as defined herein, are not subjected to regulations by the structural engineering codes and should not be expected to be current with their development.

SECOND CONFLICT

The second conflict is that in many states, including California, the practice act which includes the authority to perform and be responsible for the work is with the civil or professional engineering license. The title or authority to use the title of Structural Engineer is granted by passing the structural engineering examination after obtaining a civil engineering license. For this discussion the structural engineering license is defined as a practice act not related to or depending upon obtaining a separate civil or any other engineering practice act license.

Practitioners of structural engineering specifically must consider several major factors for each assignment, all of which influence the type and extent of structural analysis

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Two Tier Practice Act for Structural Engineer's License

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sus high expected seismic forces, number of occupants, and type of occupancy. With the new codes and national direction towards performance based design criteria, an additional consideration is the predicted level of performance. The breadth and depth of specific and specialized knowledge required emphasize the need for a practice act for structural engineers.

The examination for a structural engineering license should include testing for knowledge required for the design of new structures or retrofit of existing structures and about specific codes and construction materials including steel, concrete, wood, masonry. Specific knowledge of structural analysis would include static vertical loads, lateral dynamic seismic forces, wind loading, snow loading, tornado and hurricanes forces. Knowledge of foundation and earth structures would include special foundations, piles and caissons, retaining walls, underpinning and tie-back systems. Finally, the knowledge of structures would include buildings, bridges, tanks, piers, and components of structures such as beams, trusses, columns, walls, diaphragms, and foundations.

The examination should also represent the method, standards and practice for doing the work, thus essay type problems are required to allow the applicants to better demonstrate their knowledge, experience and capability in a similar environment to actual practice. Because of the extensive amount of material to be tested, it may be appropriate to divide the examination into several parts and to allow the parts to be passed separately.

The Practice of Structural Engineering at this time requires both an entry level and a full competence license with a specific level of authority to be adopted by States. For the purpose of discussion, the structural engineering practice act license should have two levels or tiers of authority. The entry level or tier, Structural Engineer I (SE-I) would limit the licensee to essentially low rise buildings (less than 3 stories), regular structures (as defined in the code), standard or category 1 occupancy and eligible for seismic design using an Equivalent Static Lateral Force (ESLF) procedure. The full authority level or tier, Structural Engineer II (SE-II), would have no limitations for the design of building or structures. Similar definitions are required to be developed for bridges to be assigned to SE-I or SE-II.

EVALUATING THE PRACTICE

Another way of evaluating the practice of structural engineering is to recognize that the design of approximately 70% to 80% of structures requires in-depth knowledge of approximately 40% of the code provisions and advanced analysis procedures. These entry level (SE-I) structures include most regular wood, masonry, concrete tilt-up, and metal manufacture buildings, simple bridges, miscellaneous walls, retaining structures, and anchorage/support of non-structural elements. The remaining 30% to 20% of more complex building and bridges or mid to high rise structures requires significant more in-depth knowledge of code provisions, current technical guideline documents and advanced analysis techniques including both linear and non-linear procedures.

The states of Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, and Utah require candidates to possess a professional or civil engineering license before obtaining the structural engineering licenses. Some of these states also categorize structures into categories which a licensed structural engineer must design and stamp, such as hospitals, school and hazardous facilities, and are therefore noted as *Two-Tier* engineering licenses in Table 1. In Hawaii, Illinois and Washington, structural engineers are directly tested and licensed as structural engineers without having to first obtain a professional engineer's license. These states are considered *One-Tier* structural engineer license states. The following are detailed provisions for specific states:

- In Arizona, an SE license is obtained independently from a civil license, however, there are no restrictions at this time on the type of structure a civil engineer can design.
- In Idaho, New Mexico and Utah, to become licensed as an SE, you must first be licensed as a professional or civil engineer, however, there are no restrictions on the type of structure a professional or civil engineer can design.
- In California, structural engineers are licensed first as civil engineers, then go on to obtain their structural license. Schools, hospitals and various buildings as regulated by cities require an SE license to design (i.e. City of LA requires an SE license to design

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Two Tier Practice Act for Structural Engineer's License

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any building over 160 feet and other cities have similar requirements.) Most buildings in California are designed by licensed SE's.

- In Hawaii and Illinois and Washington, an SE license is obtained independently from a civil license. All buildings must be designed by a licensed SE.
- In Nevada, to become licensed an SE, you must first be licensed as a civil engineer. Only licensed SE's can design any building more than 3 stories or 45 feet high, and any structure requiring special expertise, including, but not limited to, a radio tower and a sign over 100 feet. If any engineering firm in Nevada advertises structural engineering services, they must have a NV licensed SE full-time on staff.
- In Oregon, to become licensed an SE, you must first be licensed as a professional or civil engineer. Only licensed SE's can design "significant structures" which include hazardous facilities and special occupancy structures, essential facilities that have a ground area of more than 4,000 square feet and are more than 20 feet high, structures determined to have irregular features and buildings that are customarily occupied by human beings and are more than 4 stories of 45 feet high.

The Structural Engineering practice act for SE-I level licenses would probably require an 12 to 16-hour examination plus education (minimum of 4 years) and work experience (minimum of 4 years) tailored to the type of structures that the licensee would be permitted to be responsible for. The mini-

imum level of formal education would probably be a Bachelor of Science degree in structural engineering or a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering with a specialty in structural engineering including formal causes in strength of material, dynamic analysis, structural analysis, and material design classes in steel concrete, wood and masonry. The most beneficial examination preparation and administration situation would be when a national organization would write, review and grade the examinations. This organization should constitute a committee for the creation and review of proposed examination questions and this group should have a membership with all of the members holding the license the examination is intended. The need to satisfy the least common denominator requires the examination material to include typical structural engineering analysis and design criteria; but Code requirements for design, detailing and construction also need to be included. Topics should include all the material types, loading cases and combinations, and be limited to occupancy and configuration limitations of the license.

SE II REQUIREMENTS

The practice act of SE-II would require a prior SE-I license, a 16-hour examination plus additional education and experience (4 years as a SE-1 working for a SE-2). The minimum level of formal education would probably be a Masters of Science in structural engineering or a Masters of Science in civil engineering with a specialty in structural engineering including advanced courses in structural dynamics, probability, structural analysis, stability, plates and shells,

steel design, concrete design and strength of materials. This examination should include a similar format to that of the SE-I, including the examination preparation committee members, material types, loading cases and combinations, occupancy and configurations. The content of the examination should include material with increased requirements for complex analytical situations and construction requirements. Examination problems should include complete Code considerations for analysis, design and detailing including special emphasis on seismic details. Complex analytical and construction requirement would include loading and response specific elements related to the full authority license.

TWO TIER VS. ONE TIER

The basic philosophy of a Two Tier Practice Act allows structural engineers to select the type of structures they want to include in their practice. The basic philosophy of a One Tier Practice Act requires all structural engineers to qualify for the full competency level prior to authorization/authority to design any structure.

As with any new engineering licensing level, it is not appropriate, or indeed legal, to restrict licensed engineers from continuing to provide the services they are currently authorized to provide. There would need to be a definite period of time during which currently licensed engineers could apply for licensing based on their current licenses and experience. Engineers who were licensed by a specific date would be authorized to continue to provide the engineering services permitted under the old practice act licensing law; thus, only the licensing of future

Two Tier Practice Act for Structural Engineer's License

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engineers would be affected.

Mandatory continuing education is another ingredient to be considered. Several states have licensing laws that require continuing education for renewal of an engineering license. Many other states are in the process of evaluating and adopting mandatory provisions for continuing education into their state licensing laws. It is apparent that the requirement for mandatory continuing education as a provision for renewal of an engineering license is an appropriate safeguard to assure that the practicing engineer maintains knowledge of the latest technology, codes and standards in order to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

SUMMARY

In summary, the following recommendations are proposed for a new Two-Tier Practice Act for Structural Engineers' License:

1. Two-Tier Practice Act for Structural Engineers
Not related to civil engineer or any other practice act
 - SE-I with limited authority
 - SE-II full authority
2. Examinations and work experience requirements to reflect the type of work and method for doing the work for which they will be licensed.

3. Grandfather clause is needed to allow engineers licensed as of a specified date to continue providing the engineering services they are currently permitted to provide.

4. Mandatory provisions for continuing education and professional development.

The findings and summary of the SEI/ASCE/CASE National Summit on Separate Licensing of Structural Engineers is presented in Appendix A. *Note the most significant recommendation is to have SEI/ASCE/CASE working through NCSEA develop a two-tier SE license that each state has the option of determining what tier is required to design specific structures in that state.*

Appendix A

"SEI/ASCE/CASE/NCSEA

"National Summit on Separate Licensing of Structural Engineers"

June 9-10, 2000, ASCE Headquarters, Reston, Virginia

Two Tier Model

Major Issues

- Re-Certification
- Segregation of Profession
- Perception of Lower Quality – Level One less Quality vs.

Level Two

- Regional Differences Recognized
- Peer Acceptance
- Complexity and Cost for Relatively Few Engineers
- How is Grandfathering to Work for both levels
- Definitions of the two levels
- Can an SE II delegate to an SE I

Most Likely Position

- Grandfathering by experience for SE I and further evaluation for SE II (State by State Level by Level)
- State Wide certification for Se
- Structural Engineering License Necessary
- Develop NCSEA/SEI National Model
- Need SEA to establish exam content and qualifications
- SEA Certification for SE II
- Benefits of Most Likely Position

National Exam more consistent with SEA exam content and qualification

Civil Engineers should support grandfathering

Uniform requirements, national significance and jurisdiction's requirements with National Certification for SE

Uniform requirements elevates state of SE with Structural License

Standardization of licensing with NCSEA/SEI National Model

Adapts to states needs with flexible two-tier application by states

Barriers of Most Likely Position

Financing for NCSEA/SEI National Model

Grandfathering appears to be self-serving and does not immediately solve the problem

States rights with National Certification for SE

State Boards will not give up their own requirements

States disagree on exam content

Summary

SE I; Structural Engineer

SE II; Structural Diplomat or Structural Engineer

Extraordinaire

3 Organizations develop two tier that each state has option of determining what tier is required to design structure in that state (least common dominator).

Advertisements

SHA needs full/part time structural engineers and CAD drafters. One to 15 years California building experience. Small office, major projects: new, retrofit, plan check, base isolation. Potential for ownership share for fulltime engineers. Premium part-time hourly pay for experienced SE's and PE's. Fax or email resume to Saif Hussain, 818-704-5052, saif@SHAse.com.

Structural Manager position available for experienced civil designer for wood frame, some steel and concrete, for residential/commercial projects. Snow country design. P.E. and 7-10 years experience. Flexible hours, excellent benefits, and top salary. Fax resume or letter of interest to Gary Davis-Consulting Civil Engineers: (530) 583-9294, Tahoe City, CA.

City of Long Beach seeks structural engineer. Requires structural engineer registration or E.I.T. certificate in the state of California and four or more years of structural field experience. Experience with AutoCAD or MicroStation software highly desirable. Apply by Oct. 31, 2000. Civil Service Department: 562-570-6202. aa/eoe

Martin, Chow & Nakabara Inc. Structural Engineers seeks fulltime design engineers and CAD drafters. Both positions require a minimum of five years experience. Design engineer shall have excellent written and verbal communication skills. Send resume to 2210 Newport Blvd., Newport Beach, CA 92663. Fax: 949-675-2449. No phone calls, please.

Wallace/SC, Inc. seeks structural engineer with 5+ years experience in structural/seismic building design for small branch office in Irvine. Commercial, retail projects nationwide. PE/SE preferred. CMU, tilt-up and movie theater building experience a plus. Send resume to cmh@wallacesc.com or fax (949) 753-5105.

Wheeler & Gray seeks structural engineer, minimum seven years experience in building design, including design of wood, concrete, steel and masonry structures and seismic design. Excellent communication and supervision skills a must. Mail: 3452 E. Foothill Blvd., Ste. 600, Pasadena, CA 91107; fax: 626-432-5858.

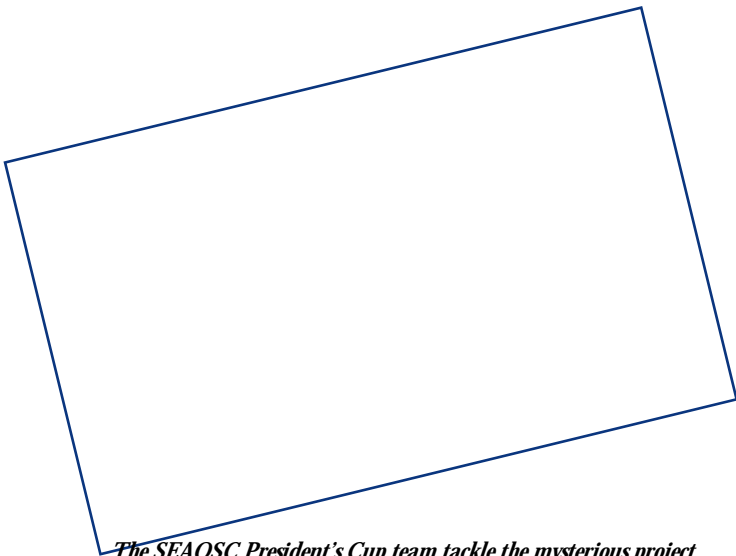
Integrated Design Services Inc. seeks self-motivated engineers and CAD drafters with design and retrofit experience. Orange County structural firm with diversified projects: UBC, FEMA, advanced technology (dampers, isolators, FRP), wood, masonry and concrete. Great opportunity to learn, excel in stable company with long-term contracts. Excellent salaries and benefits. Fax: 714-541-5330.

Robert Lawson Structural Engineers seeks project engineer with a minimum of three years design office background. Must have experience in seismic analysis, retrofit design and commercial projects. C.E. preferred. Excellent communications skills a must. South Orange County location. Send resume to Jean. Fax: 949-497-2732. Email: jean@rlawson.com.

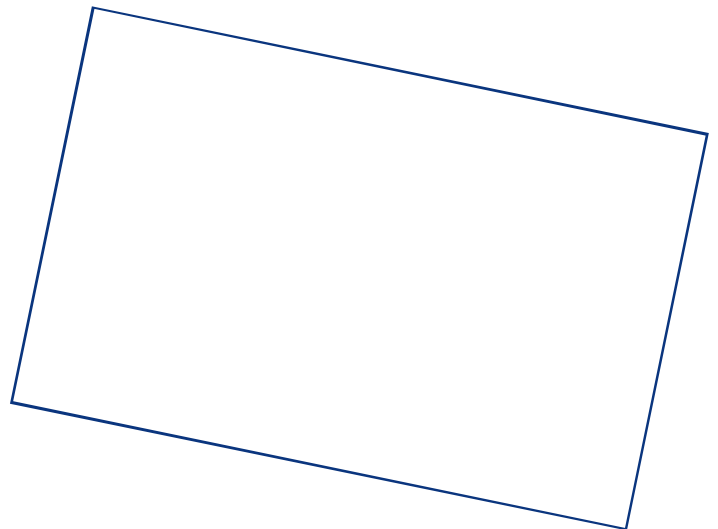
SEAOC Convention in Vancouver, B.C., Canada August 16-19, 2000



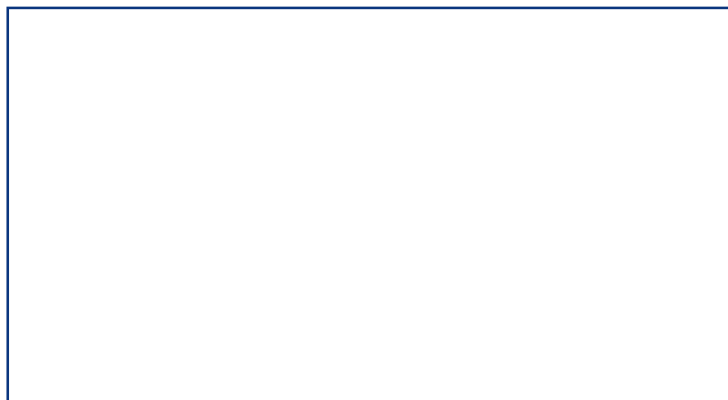
View of Vancouver waterfront from Westin Bayshore Hotel, which was adjacent to Stanley Park.



The SEAOSC President's Cup team tackle the mysterious project, which turned out to be building a totem in the pool.



SEAONC's Club Curry livened up the Presidents' Cup with the U.S. and Canadian national anthems.



The winners of the President's Cup – the SEAOSC team! They were from left in dark-colored shirts: Russel Keil, Shane Noel, Michael Cochran and Yvette Soudani. Far left in light-colored shirts: two friends from SEAOC. The traveling trophy (the life preserver) is on display at the SEAOSC Office.

Association Resolution

Adopted at the SEAOC Convention on the 18th day of August in the year 2000

WHEREAS, the Officers, Board of Directors and the members of the Structural Engineers Association of California have met the challenges posed by a rapidly evolving business and professional environment, seismic codes developed and adopted on a national consensus basis, and rapidly growing pressures on professional practice, and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has adopted a new series of Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation that will allow the Association to remain cohesive and strong in representing the interests of practicing structural engineers and in promoting the practice of Structural Engineering in California, and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has submitted the new Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation to the membership for approval, and,

WHEREAS, the Association has retained a new Executive Director, who has shown outstanding ability to assist the Association in managing its affairs, in communicating with the membership and in obtaining access to legislators, regulators and the political process, and,

WHEREAS, the Association has been successful in working with allied professional societies representing the California design community and in influencing public policy through the Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors and through providing input and support to the legislative process, and,

WHEREAS, the Association's standing committees have joined with the committee structure of the National Council of Structural Engineering Associations, to provide practicing engineers with a unified national voice in the development of technical and professional standards of practice, and

WHEREAS, through association with the International Conference of Building Officials, and the outstanding efforts of our volunteer members, the Association has successfully developed and published a series of Seismic Design Manuals that will both serve as a primary guide to interpretation of the building code and also provide the Association with needed revenue, and,

WHEREAS, SEAOC volunteers are coordinating with structural engineers nationwide as well as other design professions, government and commercial interests in California to establish a practice act for Structural Engineers,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Association recognizes and acknowledges the outstanding contributions of its officers, directors and active volunteer members, and the positive effect their efforts will have on future practice.

Advertisements

Advertisements, announcements and inserts are for the information of readers and are not intended as endorsements by SEAOSC.

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2000 - 2001 SEAOSC Officers and Committee Chairs

Get involved! Members and interested parties are invited to join a SEAOSC committee. Contact the chairperson for information on current projects and meeting times, dates and locations.

SEAOSC Officers & Board Members	Name	Phone	Fax	Email
President	James Hill*	562-426-4447	562-426-0979	case@aol.com
President-Elect	Jack Bruce	213-897-3995	213-897-3159	jack.bruce@dgs.ca.gov
Vice President	Dan Novak	626-683-0066	626-683-0060	dnovak@aslce.com
Treasurer	Richard Hess	714-828-1365	714-236-4034	rlhess@hesseng.com
Secretary	Shirin Ader	562-695-2890	562-695-2890	projectconsults@ad.com
Immediate Past President	Brian Cochran*	310-207-6638	310-207-6188	blcochran@aol.com
Directors				
(* Delegate to SEAOC)	George Battey III	909-824-7210	909-824-7209	
	Dirk Bondy	949-595-8182	949-595-8184	dirkbondy@compuserve.com
	Albert Chen	213-312-3313	213-313-3399	chent@bv.com
	Saiful Islam	626-304-2616	626-304-2676	saiful@sbise.com
	Martin Johnson	714-734-4242	714-734-4272	mwj@eqe.com
	Michael Mehraïn	213-683-1560	213-996-2375	michael_mehraïn@urscorp.com
	Fred Schott	805-544-1216	805-544-2004	fredschott@yahoo.com
	Melvyn Green*	310-792-9252	310-792-8092	mgreenassoc@earthlink.net
Committee	Chairperson	Phone	Fax	Email
Board Advisory	James Lai	818-790-0278	818-790-0279	jslaicse@earthlink.net
Building Code	Doug Thompson	949-599-0320	949-599-0325	sthompsonb@aol.com
Business Forum	Ike Ikeda	213-744-1414	213-744-1515	n/a
Computer Applications	Shafat Qazi	310-530-3050	310-530-0184	shafat@bqe.com
Disaster Emergency Services	Sandy Pringle	310-353-2244	310-376-5294	sandyp@sic-inc.com
Education	Ming Yeh	626-449-9886	626-449-9086	myyeh@aol.com
Existing Buildings	Vahe Petrossian	818-500-1200	818-500-1242	wartetr@netscape.net
House	David Corman	714-505-2751	714-505-1689	dec_inc@msn.com
Legislative	David Weiss	818-224-3973	818-224-3922	n/a
Membership	Juan Carlos Esquivel	213-483-2282	213-483-3084	jceqese@aol.com
Professional Practice Program	Les Tso	626-441-1211	626-411-1011	n/a
	Dilip Khatri	626-792-7906	626-792-2643	dkhatri@aol.com
	David Pomerleau	949-474-0502	949-474-1801	dpomerleau@fwcse.com
	Fred Schott	805-544-1216	805-544-2004	fredschott@yahoo.com
Public Relations	Cecil Teoh	310-646-2268	310-646-8107	cteoh@airports.ci.la.ca.us
Quality Assurance	David Breiholz	310-530-3050	310-530-0184	dave@bqe.com
Research	Farzad Naeim	213-483-6490	213-483-3084	farzad@johnmartin.com
Seminar	Jack Bruce	213-897-3995	213-897-3159	Jack.bruce@dgs.ca.gov
Seismology	Saiful Islam	626-304-2616	626-304-2676	saiful@sbise.com
Speakers Bureau	Herb Stockinger	909-595-0840	909-598-9204	herbstock@aol.com
Steel Structures	Peter Maranian	213-484-8950	213-483-5550	n/a
Younger Member	Yeuan Chou	213-368-7258	213-368-7227	n/a
	Jason Tani	805-499-4484	805-499-7303	jtani@ix.netcom.com
Website Administrator	Shafat Qazi	310-530-3050	310-530-0184	shafat@bqe.com

Structural Engineers Association of Southern California
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